

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
December 28, 2009

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2009 Special meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2009 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked the Council to provide a format to respond to questions asked at the Council meetings, preferably in public session.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, commented the Town of Tolland's website provides an opportunity for citizens to offer suggestions during the budget process and suggested Mansfield do the same. Mr. Sikoski noted the agenda for the Personnel Committee stated the meeting would be on Wednesday December 28, 2009 but should have read Monday December 28, 2009.

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Report attached

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Town Council Orientation, Goal setting

Town Manager Matt Hart offered to serve as the facilitator for the goal setting session and asked members to flag issues of importance. A summary of identified key issues follows:

TOWN COUNCIL - IDENTIFICATION OF KEY ISSUES

Main Issue	Related Topics	Council Members (see Note)
	Water sources Infrastructure for potable water and economic development Four Corners and the town as a whole	Carl Carl
Open Space	Funding sources for acquisition "Plain" open space v. open space for passive recreation Importance of maintaining overall character of the Town	Carl, Peter, Betsy
Finances/Budget	Balancing services with revenues available; some tax increase may be acceptable in order to keep Mansfield special.	Denise, Meredith, Bill, Chris, Gregg, Betsy, Peter, Toni
	Protect the quality of school/education system	
	Care for seniors and disabled citizens	
	Find creative solutions to maintain services	Toni, Meredith
	Foster additional partnerships with the University	
	Diversification of revenue base	Betsy
	Keep Mansfield affordable for families	
	Zero tax increase is an illusion - actually a decrease because of inflation	Denise
	Zero tax increase	
	Prioritize programs and services	Chris Denise Betsy

Regionalization	Regionalize services to capture economies of scale	Denise
School Building Committee/Project	Financing Involve the public 1 central school v. multiple neighborhood schools	Bill, Gregg, Betsy, Toni, Meredith, Peter, Chris
Quality of Life	Increase connectedness of community Preservation of neighborhoods with single family homes close to the UCONN campus Police services RFQ Maintaining quality services	Toni, Peter, Gregg, Betsy, Chris, Peter Gregg Gregg, Chris
Mansfield Downtown Partnership (MDP)	Having a Town center; a real university community Using MDP as new growth and responsible growth	Bill, Gregg, Betsy, Peter, Chris, Toni
Other Economic Development (New Growth)	Seeking out economic development opportunities using the advantages of being a university community Four Corners development Responsible growth	Peter, Chris, Toni, Betsy
Open and Transparent Government	Increase community involvement Find informal means to educate and engage citizens	Meredith, Bill, Toni, Betsy Meredith Meredith

Find a means to respond to citizen comments without engaging during public comment; allow staff to provide the facts.	Bill
Ability to communicate 2 ways - giving and receiving information i.e. suggestion box on website	Toni
Town Council meetings are not the forum for addressing citizen comments; the meetings are for conducting business	Toni
Review Committee structure for possible consolidations and eliminations	Betsy

Transportation	Increase public transit opportunities and seek partnerships to make it happen.	Betsy
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Note: Names indicates verbal comments, not individual priorities.

Town Manager Matthew Hart asked the members, based on the identified issues, to enumerate goals and objectives they would like to accomplish in the next two years. A summary of these goals and objectives follows:

TOWN COUNCIL GOALS

- 1 Goal: Embrace sustainability.
Objective: Use as a principle in decision making.
- 2 Goal: Make progress on the physical components of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership "Storrs Center" project.
Objective: Break ground on new building(s) prior to the end of the Council term.
Objective: Develop a fair development agreement between the Town and the developer, Leyland Alliance
Objective: Begin demolition of buildings to be retired.
Objective: Provide Council support to MDP to accomplish the stated objectives.
- 3 Goal: Make a decision on the school renovation project
Objective: Send project and funding request to referendum prior to the end of the Council term.
Objective: Provide public forums and opportunities for public input on the school renovation project.
- 4 Goal: Maintain core services despite declining revenues
Objective: Define core services
Objective: Avoid major layoffs
Objective: Develop creative solutions to maintain or enhance services
Objective: Research opportunities for revenue diversification

Objective: Explore opportunities for providing services regionally

- 5 Goal: Improve quality of life for residents of neighborhoods close to the UCONN campus
Objective: Reduce blight and blighted neighborhoods
Objective: Research and develop additional ordinances and programs to combat negative off-campus student behavior.
- 6 Goal: Maintain tradition of open and transparent government
Objective: Develop more mediums for the exchange of ideas between citizens and their government
Objective: Empower and engage seniors in Senior Center programming.
Objective: Complete review and adoption of Council Rules of Procedure.
- 7 Goal: Improve active recreation facilities for youth
Objective: Improve Region 19 athletic facilities
Objective: Improve Town owned active recreation facilities such as athletic fields and playgrounds
- 8 Goal: Make progress on installation of water infrastructure to Four Corners area.
Objective:

By consensus the Council agreed that staff would present a draft of the evening's points of discussion to be finalized by the Council at their next meeting. Any additional thoughts or comment should be forwarded to the Town Manager for inclusion in the draft.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

2. WINCOG Regional Planning Commission Appointment

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective December 28, 2009, to designate Kenneth Rawn as Mansfield's alternate representative on the WINCOG Regional Planning Commission.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Financial Statements Dated September 30, 2009

Chair of the Finance Committee Bill Ryan, moved, effective December 28, 2009, to approve the Financial Statements Dated September 30, 2009.

Mr. Ryan stated the Finance Committee reviewed the second quarter statements and found no major issues.

The motion to approve passed unanimously.

4. FY 2009/10 Salary Transfers

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee, moved, effective December 28, 2009, to approve the Salary Transfers for FY 2009/10, as presented by the Director of Finance in her correspondence dated December 21, 2009.

Mr. Ryan stated the Finance Committee reviewed and approved the proposed salary transfers as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Committee on Committees, reported the Committee has begun the process of looking at the membership of each and every committee. The Committee discussed the Four Corner Sewer Advisory Committee but is awaiting a response from one of the members before offering a recommendation.

Mr. Schaefer distributed a summary of the last meeting of the Four Corner Sewer Advisory Committee with supporting documentation. (attached)

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

No reports

X. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

5. J. Picard re: School Building Project

6. Connecticut Light and Power Company re: Notice of intent to file amended rate schedules

7. Connecticut Water Company re: Application for an amended rate schedule - The Town Manager will contact the Connecticut Water Company and will provide the Council with the percentage of increase

for an average Mansfield customer as a result of the proposed rate schedule. The Town Manager will also review the process the company used to inform citizens of the proposed rate increase.

8. Last Green Valley re: Walktober 2010
9. Chronicle"Letters to the Editor" - 12/10/09
10. Chronicle"Editorial: Free speech should not be curtailed" - 12/11/09
11. Chronicle"Editorial: We offer these threads, needles" - 12/14/09
12. Chronicle"Council miffed at D19 raises" - 12/15/09
13. Chronicle"Letter to the Editor" - 12/16/09
14. Chronicle"Spring Weekend tab estimated at \$225,000" - 12/17/09
15. Chronicle"Merrill will seek new state office" - 12/21/09

XI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, complimented the Council on the meeting's goal setting exercise and stated that it would behoove the Council to seek public approval of the Storrs Green Project before spending any more money. Mr. Hossack also suggested the Council should meet formally once a month and the second meeting should be more informal with more public participation.

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

The issue of signs, raised by the ACLU, will be a future agenda item. The Town Attorney is currently reviewing the issue as is the Planning and Zoning Commission. Council members' appointments to Advisory Committees will be on the next agenda.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6)
(a)

Town Manager Matt Hart announced the listed executive session would not take place as the required employee concurrence had not been received.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Haddad seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk